From: christopher fish
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 3:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am a software developer who has worked with microsoft products for the last 7 years. Either in supporting users or in creating software. I strongly support the break up of microsoft and wanted to go down on record as doing so.

I also wanted to know if you have addressed these two issues yet.

1) Microsoft's design of the Visual C++ compiler and it's wizards makes it very difficult to create C++ code that can be compiled to run on more then one operating system. This design flaw has the effect of eliminating competing operating systems, because if you want to get inter-operability under windows the best compiler to use (and one of the only two) is Microsoft's visual C++. The problem is that the compilers wizards create projects that don't even have the C++ standard "main" operator in them. This makes it impossible to change compilers and since Microsoft's compiler does not readily support compilations for other operating systems it makes compiling your application for other operating systems extremely difficult, thus effectively punishing developers who what to try and write code that can run on more then one operating system.

2) Microsoft's implementation of unicode is off in some of it's higher numbers so as to cause corruption in languages that use characters above and including Russian. This would seem to be something that was very intentionally done as it is the type of mistake that would be hard to make and not notice. It certainly has the effect of requiring anyone who does not use Internet explorer to have to download special components (which of coarse had to be written at the coast of Microsoft's competitors) so that you can view web pages that were created with Microsoft outlook.

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